

SKELETON ISOMERIZATION OF OLEFINS

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This invention relates to a process for the skeletal isomerization of hydrocarbon feedstock comprising linear olefins to a product enriched in branched olefins in the presence of a crystalline zeolite SUZ-4 of the empirical formula: $m(M_{2/a}O):X_2O_3:yYO_2$ (I) in which m is 0.5 to 1.5; M is a cation of valency a; X is a metal of valency 3 selected from aluminium, boron, gallium and iron; Y is silicon or germanium and y is at least 5; and has in its calcined hydrogen form, an x-ray diffraction pattern including significant peaks substantially as shown in Table I herein. The process is particularly suitable for converting n- butenes to the corresponding isobutene, a valuable raw material for producing methyl tertiary butyl ether which is a substitute for lead in gasoline to improve the octane rating thereof or for producing polyisobutene.

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